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MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT
3401 N.W. 31st Street
Miami, Florida 33142
Phone: 305-638-7235

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION *Solar Panel System Installations for Optima Buses*

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued solely for information and planning purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Quote (RFQ) or a promise to issue an RFQ in the future. This RFI does not commit Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) to contract with any vendor and/or contractor. MDT is not seeking proposals at this time and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Respondents are advised that MDT will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. Submissions will not be returned. Small Businesses having the capabilities to perform the task below are encouraged to reply to this RFI. Failure to respond to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future spot market quotations, if any are issued.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this RFI is to determine vendors' interest in becoming pre-qualified under *Group 2 for Service and/or Repairs for Buses and/or Support Equipment and/ or other Equipment* for electrical systems repair services on **Contract 5745-2/14 for Parts and Repair Services for Transit Buses and Other Support Equipment**.

Becoming pre-qualified under Group 2 will allow respondents to bid on future spot market quotations/requests for the subject project, as well as unrelated projects solicited under Group 2 by MDT and/or any department of Miami-Dade County. MDT intends to solicit requests for spot market quotations, in the near future, to modify the charging systems on transit buses by adding a solar panel and control circuitry to supplement the battery charging capability on MDT Optima buses.



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MDT will utilize the responses to this RFI to determine the number of qualified respondents interested in becoming pre-qualified under Group 2 and will most likely submit a bid on any future spot market quotations for the ***Solar Panel System Installations for Optima Buses*** project.

2.0 BACKGROUND

MDT has 72 of Optima buses that are approximately 7 years old. After these buses are parked for more than 24 hours the parasitic loads from onboard electronic equipment drains the batteries to the point that the level of charge is insufficient to start the engine. In order to start the engine the buses must be jump started or have the batteries replaced. MDT installed a test solar panel system on one bus to determine if it would reduce the number of incidents related to engine failure to start. The test demonstrated that the solar panel system achieved its intent.

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK

Awarded vendor shall purchase and install an industrial grade, 24 volt, 60 watt, solar panel system; Kussmaul Part Number 092-2460-0, or approved equal, for approximately 72 MDT Optima (model Opus 32) buses.

The system shall provide power for parasitic load (including radio/VLU, farebox GPS, CCTV, fire suppression system, etc.) and allow for battery charging without running the vehicle's engine. The solar panel system shall carry a ten (10) year parts warranty for the panel and 3 years parts warranty on the charge controller.

If the Respondent is not offering the exact system, the Respondent must submit their system's documentation to MDT for approval at least three (3) working days prior to the submittal due date on the spot market quotations, if received. The documentation shall include a detailed parts list with specifications that shows the Respondent's system meets or exceeds the salient characteristics.

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4.0 LOCATION

Installation shall take place at the respondents facility, which must be located within 25 miles or less from both locations listed below where the Optima buses are garaged.

(Note: Evaluation of competitive bids under this contract is subject to local preference.)

Northern Most Facility: 3311 NW 31st Street, Miami, Florida 33142

Southern Most Facility: 2775 SW 74th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33155

Mileage will be calculated by MDT using Google Maps

5.0 SPECIFICATIONS

5.1 SOLAR PANEL SPECIFICATIONS

24 Volts DC

1.7 Amps DC

Approximately 1.38 inches height

Approximately 21.3 inches width

Approximately 38.9 inches depth

5.2 CHARGE CONTROLLER SPECIFICATIONS

Temperature compensated

Three-step Output

Battery Type Selector

6.0 INSTALLATION

The solar panel shall be securely mounted on the bus roof at the centerline of the bus between the air-conditioner unit and the radio antenna. (EXHIBIT 1) All wiring, hardware, and incidentals required for installation shall be provided by the respondent. The mounting and wire feed-through shall be waterproof and accessible for maintenance. Wiring shall be routed and securely supported to prevent chafing. The charge controller

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shall be mounted in an MDT approved location in the driver's area electronic equipment box.

All rooftop installations shall be water tested by flooding the panel and roof penetrations for at least five (5) minutes with no water leakage prior to release to MDT.

The installation of the first solar panel system will be inspected by MDT staff at the Respondent's facility and must be approved prior to performing subsequent installations. All subsequent installations will be inspected and tested by MDT upon return of the bus to MDT's maintenance facilities.

The installation work shall be performed at the Respondent's facility. MDT will transport the buses to and from the Respondent's facility.

7.0 TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Respondent shall have experience in retrofitting transit buses with similar type solar panel systems within the past 10 years. The product offered by the Respondent shall have successfully worked for at least a one-year period in a transit bus in revenue service.

The respondent shall succinctly describe their demonstrated experience in accordance with the above listed criteria and provide following information to substantiate their experience:

- (a) Contract Numbers and Award Dates;
- (b) Procuring Agency/Commercial Activity Name;
- (c) Procuring Agency/Commercial Activity Point of Contact and
- (c) Dollar value of the contract /Number of units installed
- (d) Date system(s) were placed in service

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(e) Length of time of successful operation of unit

8.0 ACCEPTANCE

MDT will inspect and test each installation at its facilities. Any defects identified shall be corrected by the Respondent prior to MDT's acceptance. Payment will be made on a per (unit) installation basis after acceptance and presentation of a properly documented invoice.

9.0 MANUALS AND DOCUMENTATION

The Respondent shall provide all documentation needed to maintain, troubleshoot, and repair the solar panel system. The documentation shall include, but is not limited to operating instructions, parts list, installation drawings and electrical schematics for the system. The documentation shall be delivered at the time of acceptance of the first system.

10.0 TRAINING

The Respondent shall provide 4 hours training to MDT on theory of operation, maintenance and system trouble shooting.

11.0 WARRANTY

In addition to the ten (10) year warranty for the industrial solar panel and all other warranties that may be supplied by the awarded bidder the awarded bidder shall warrant its product and service against faulty labor and/or defective material for a minimum period of two (2) years after the date of acceptance by the County. Additionally, the awarded bidder shall be responsible for towing/transportation fees incurred by the County for towing/transportation from the County facility to awarded bidder's facility during this period.

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12.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to become pre-qualified under Group 2, Respondents must meet the minimum requirements set forth in this Contract # 5745-2/14. Those requirements are as follows:

- Respondents shall clearly print the location of the service facility and service manager's name, address, and contact information.
- Respondent shall provide a letter, on company letterhead or other documentation, identifying and affirming their firm's classification as an OEM and/or OES authorized service dealer, authorized repair company, and/or repair company possessing a valid industry specific and/or nationally recognized respective repair accreditation(s) and/or certification(s) current/valid as of bid opening date, such as Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) for the service work offered for each line item listed in Section 4, Group 2 of Contract 5745-2/14. Conversely, Respondents shall clearly indicate in their company letter when such authorization(s), accreditation(s) and/or certification(s) are not available from the manufacturer for each service / line item offered.
- Respondent shall clearly print the description of the type of service(s) and/or repair(s) they are offering as found in Section 3, Group 2 and for what type / brand of equipment in Section 4, Group 2.
- Respondent shall indicate whether or not they have such authorization documentation, and shall provide all documentation prior to becoming pre-qualified under Group 2. However, the County reserves the right to ask for additional clarifying documentation in order to determine eligibility.

It shall be the sole prerogative of the County as to the number of vendors who will be pre-qualified under this contract and/or group. During the term of this contract, the County reserves the right to add or delete vendors and/or repair categories / line items as it deems necessary in its best interests. If the County elects to pre-qualify additional vendors, they must meet the same minimum requirements established for the original competition.



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If a vendor can no longer provide documentation, at any time, after award for any service or line item previously awarded, the County reserves the right not to issue a spot market request for quotation to that Respondent based on warranty, safety, and/or any other requirement or concern in the best interest of the County on a case by case basis.

If parts are required to complete work under spot market quotations for Group 2, the parts sold under Group 2 shall be priced at no more than MSRP or less. It shall be the responsibility of the Respondent to provide to the County user department the current MSRP price list used for billing parts upon request.

The County will review and verify the submission of documents by interested Respondents to ensure that the Respondents meet or exceed the minimum criteria set forth in Contract 5745-2/14.

All Respondents who meet, or exceed, the established criteria shall be placed on a the pre-qualification list under Group 2 and are deemed eligible to submit price quotations to provide and install solar panels on the Optima buses, and on an as needed basis in order to obtain future spot market quotations for electrical systems repair services.

13.0 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Respondents shall indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, employees, agents and instrumentalities from any and all liability, losses or damages, including attorneys' fees and costs of defense, which the County or its officers, employees, agents or instrumentalities may incur as a result of claims, demands, suits, causes of actions or proceedings of any kind or nature arising out of, relating to or resulting from the performance of this Agreement by the Respondent or its employees, agents, servants, partners principals or subcontractors. Respondent shall pay all claims and losses in connection therewith and shall investigate and defend all claims, suits or actions of any kind or nature in the name of the County, where applicable, including appellate

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proceedings, and shall pay all costs, judgments, and attorney's fees which may issue thereon. Respondent expressly understands and agrees that any insurance protection required by this Agreement or otherwise provided by Respondent shall in no way limit the responsibility to indemnify, keep and save harmless and defend the County or its officers, employees, agents and instrumentalities as herein provided.

The Respondent shall furnish to the Vendor Assistance Section, Department of Procurement Management, Bids and Contracts Division, 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1300, Miami, Florida 33128-1989, Certificate(s) of Insurance which indicate that insurance coverage has been obtained which meets the requirements as outlined below:

- Worker's Compensation Insurance for all employees of the vendor as required by Florida Statute 440.
- Garage Liability Insurance including Garage Keepers Legal Liability in amount not less than \$500,000 combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. Miami-Dade County must be shown as an additional insured with respect to this coverage.
- Automobile Liability Insurance covering all owned, non-owned and hired vehicles used in connection with the work, in an amount not less than \$500,000 combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage.

All insurance policies required above shall be issued by companies authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Florida, with the following qualifications:

The company must be rated no less than "B" as to management, and no less than "Class V" as to financial strength, by the latest edition of Best's Insurance Guide, published by A.M. Best Company, Oldwick, New Jersey, or its equivalent, subject to the approval of the County Risk Management Division or The company must hold a valid Florida Certificate of Authority as shown in the latest "List of All Insurance Companies Authorized

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or Approved to Do Business in Florida” issued by the State of Florida Department of Insurance and are members of the Florida Guaranty Fund.

Certificates will indicate no modification or change in insurance shall be made without thirty (30) days in advance notice to the certificate holder. NOTE: DADE COUNTY BID NUMBER AND TITLE OF BID MUST APPEAR ON EACH CERTIFICATE.
CERTIFICATE HOLDER MUST READ:

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
111 NW 1ST STREET
SUITE 2340
MIAMI, FL 33128

Compliance with the foregoing requirements shall not relieve the vendor of his liability and obligation. If the required insurance is scheduled to expire during the contractual period, the Respondent shall be responsible for submitting new or renewed insurance certificates to the County at a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days in advance of such expiration. In the event that expired certificates are not replaced with new or renewed certificates which cover the contractual period, the County shall suspend the contract until such time as the new or renewed certificates are received by the County. Respondents supplying parts only are exempt from the insurance requirements.

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RFI QUESTIONNAIRE

Interested parties should complete this questionnaire and submit to Fred Shields, via e-mail only, fredsh@miamidade.gov no later than Monday, March 3, 2014 @ 5:00pm.

Company's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

1. Is your company interested in becoming pre-qualified under Group 2 of Contract 5745 for the purpose of bidding on future spot market quotations related to the Solar Panel project? _____ (Yes or No)

If no, please provide a brief explanation.

2. Is your company interested in becoming prequalified under Group 2 of Contract 5745 for the purpose of bidding on future spot market quotations, unrelated to the Solar Panel project? _____ (Yes or No)

If no, please provide a brief explanation.

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RFI QUESTIONNAIRE - CONTINUED

3. If you answered "Yes" to questions 1 and/or 2, please tell us if you believe your company can meet all the pre-qualification and insurance requirements detailed in section 10 and 11, respectively, of this RFI? _____ (Yes or No)

If no, please provide a brief explanation.

4. Has your company previously performed the type of work detailed in this RFI or similar work? _____ (Yes or No)

Briefly explain:

5. If your company is interested in this project, is there any requirement included in this RFI that will discourage or prevent your company from bidding, if offered?

Briefly explain:

6. What is the estimated time your company will need to perform solar panel installation on 72 buses? _____

7. If a spot market quotation request was issued, would your company prefer an on-site visit to view a prototype bus that has the solar panel installed prior to submitting a bid? _____ (Yes or No)

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EXHIBIT 1

